

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 19, and 20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a ~~name-resolving unit~~ resolver configured to perform name resolving;

a first ~~connection unit~~ connector configured to provide a first direct connection to a first network, using a first network protocol;

a second ~~connection unit~~ connector configured to provide a second direct connection to a second network using a second network protocol, wherein, when the ~~name-resolving unit~~ resolver in the first network ~~must forward~~ forwards a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the ~~name-resolving unit~~ resolver in the first network to the second network; and

~~an address translation unit~~ a translator configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network;

wherein the ~~name-resolving unit~~ resolver and the ~~address translation unit~~ translator are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a domain name service server.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~address translation unit~~ translator is configured to select a particular network address translating element to be used for a connection between a first host in the first network and a second host in the second network, and

wherein the ~~address translation unit~~ translator is configured to add network address translating element information to the resolved address.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the network address translating element information is an address prefix.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the ~~address translation unit~~ translator is configured to select a network address translating element based on information regarding the load on the network address translating element.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first protocol is internet protocol version 6, and the second protocol is internet protocol version 4.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~name resolving unit~~resolver of the apparatus is configured to send a name resolve request to a name resolving element located in the second network.

8. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a network name resolving element and at least two network address translating elements,

the network name resolving element configured to perform name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol, the network element comprising

a ~~name resolving unit~~resolver configured to perform name resolving,

a first ~~connection unit~~connector configured to provide a first direct connection to the first network,

a second ~~connection unit~~connector configured to provide a second direct connection to the second network, such that when the ~~name resolving unit~~resolver in the first network ~~must forward~~ forwards a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the ~~name resolving unit~~resolver in the first network to the second network, and

~~an address translation unit~~a translator configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network,

wherein the ~~name-resolving unit~~resolver and the ~~address-translation unit~~translator are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving,

wherein the ~~address-translation unit~~translator is configured to select a particular network address translating element to be used for a connection between a first host in the first network and a second host in the second network,

wherein the ~~address-translation unit~~translator is configured to add network address translating element information to the resolved address,

wherein the ~~address-translation unit~~translator is configured to select a network address translating element based on information regarding the load on the network address translating element, and

wherein the network address translating elements are configured to send load information to the network element.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein the load information is sent using a simple network management protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
processing a name resolve request to obtain an address; and
performing address translation between a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol,

wherein the name resolve request processing and the address translation are performed in a dedicated network name resolving element configured to perform name resolving located in the first network and having a first direct connection to the first network and a second direct connection to the second network, such that when ~~the name resolving unit~~ a resolver in the first network ~~must forward~~ forwards a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the ~~name resolving unit~~ resolver in the first network to the second network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the network element is a domain name service server.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the performing address translation comprises

selecting a particular address network translating element to be used for a connection between a first host in the first network and a second host in the second network; and

adding network address translating element information indicating the selected network translating element to the translated address.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the network address translating element information is an address prefix.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein in the selecting, different network address translating elements are selected based on information regarding the load on the network address translating elements.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the first network protocol is internet protocol version 6, and the second network protocol is internet protocol version 4.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

sending load information from at least two network address translating elements to the network element.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the load information is sent using simple network management protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the processing a name resolve request comprises

forwarding a name resolve request from the first network directly to a network name resolving element in the second network; and
receiving an address from the name resolving element in the second network.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

resolving means for performing name resolving,

communicating means for providing a first direct connection to a first network using a first network protocol;

communicating means for providing a second direct connection to a second network using a second network protocol, such that when the resolving means for performing name resolving in the first network ~~must forward~~ forwards a name resolving request to a server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the resolving means for performing name resolving in the first network to the second network; and

translating means for performing address translation between the first network and the second network;

wherein the resolving means for performing name resolving and the translating means for performing address translation are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program, embodied on a computer readable medium, configured to control a processor to implement a method, the method, comprising:

processing a name resolve request to obtain an address; and

performing address translation between a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol,

wherein the processor is located in a dedicated network name resolving element configured to perform name resolving located in the first network and having a first direct connection to the first network and a second direction connection to the second network, such that when ~~the name resolving unit~~ a resolver in the first network ~~must forward forwards~~ a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the ~~name resolving unit~~ resolver in the first network to the second network.